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Atención a las Víctimas de Minas Anti-personales Afectadas por el Conflicto en Colombia

Landmine Activities for Victims of the Conflict in Colombia

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**YEAR 4 – FOURTH QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT
JULY 1, 2012 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2012**

Submitted by implementing agency:

MERCY CORPS

USAID/Colombia

Program Summary

Grant Amount: \$4,312,910

Program Period: Aug. 28, 2008 – April 30, 2013

Geographic Coverage: 22 departments total of which six priority departments include Antioquia, Norte Santander, Nariño, Caquetá, Cauca, Meta

Number of Beneficiaries: 600 landmine survivors, 60,890 total including PWDs

Partner Organizations: Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje (SENA); Universidad Don Bosco (El Salvador)

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The opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the
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Acronyms

COP	Colombian Pesos
EPS	Health Provider - Empresa Prestadora de Salud
FARC	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
FOSYGA	Social Solidarity Guarantee Fund
GOC	Government of Colombia
HUDN	University Hospital of Nariño
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IDESAC	Departmental Health Institute of Caquetá - Instituto Departamental de Salud de Caquetá
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
INVIMA	National Institute for Drug Surveillance - Instituto Nacional de Vigilancia de Medicamentos
ISPO	International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MC	Mercy Corps
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
P&O	Prosthetic and Orthotic
PWD	Persons With Disabilities
SENA	National Learning Service
UDB	University of Don Bosco
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

Executive Summary & Key Achievements

Since the beginning of the Program for Integral Assistance to Mine Victims Affected by Armed Conflict in August 2008, Mercy Corps and its partners have supported the development and implementation of comprehensive rehabilitation using social and economic integration models. The Program has strengthened local capacity and improved the quality of life of more than 185,000 victims of armed conflict and other People With Disabilities (PDW) in 14 departments of Colombia. By the establishment of strategic partnerships with local NGOs such as the *Colombian Campaign Against Mines and Peace and Democracy Corporation*, academic institutions such as the *Don Bosco University* in El Salvador, and the *National Learning Service (SENA)*, Mercy Corps has been able to make significant progress toward the overall Program objectives. Additionally, Mercy Corps has worked strategically with government bodies and public institutions at the national and departmental level. Over 46,335 vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs), victims of landmines or other explosive remnants of war and other victims of armed conflict have gained access to health services and physical rehabilitation, income generation opportunities and basic vocational and technical training in different fields.

To address the health and rehabilitation for victims of armed conflict, the two rehabilitation centers established by the Program in the departments of Nariño (Hospital Universitario Departamental de Nariño - Pasto) and Caquetá (Hospital María Inmaculada - Florencia), have provided services to over 180,000 people from the departments of Nariño, Putumayo, Cauca, Huila, Caquetá between 2008 and 2011. Over the next five years the rehabilitation centers will provide opportunities for access to these services to more than 250,000 citizens with disabilities. This achievement, coupled with the formal on-line trainings on prosthetics and orthotics located in 14 mid-level cities, has demonstrated the possibility of transferring high quality services and technical capacity closer to affected communities and vulnerable populations which will reduce the social and economic costs associated with accessing these services.

As mentioned in previous quarterly reports, the technical and financial support with USAID funding that Mercy Corps has provided to over 200 landmine survivors and their families through the socio-economic integration component of the Program has demonstrated the ability of victims of conflict to develop resilience strategies, and has clearly generated measurable and efficient tools to for vulnerable persons to thrive, even in the most complex environments. Due to the sustained follow-up efforts and the partnerships established with public and private sectors in six departments, 72% of the income-generation initiatives that were funded with USAID resources are active, and represent a sustainable source of income for beneficiary families. Furthermore, the model designed and implemented by Mercy Corps and its partners has proven to be an effective psychosocial tool. The methodology uses an integrated approach not only focusing on creating successful businesses and income generation opportunities for landmine survivors and their families, but also fostering family and community-level social integration with dignity.

During this reporting period, Mercy Corps focused on supporting prosthetic and orthotic (P&O) students in the online training Program with the University Don Bosco. In July, the Mercy Corps team carried out academic performance evaluations with each of the students for the academic year. As a result, 20 students were promoted to start P&O course work (e.g. biomechanics, integrated rehabilitation according to ISPO requirements) for module IV, while three others started their coursework for module III¹.

Mercy Corps continues to provide technical support to the Ministry of Health of Colombia in order to guarantee a participatory process for the reformulation and implementation of the Resolution 1319/2010 on improving P&O quality, manufacturing requirements and laboratory compliance nationally in Colombia. Two meetings were held during the quarter with key stakeholders including users of P&O devices, other People with Disabilities, and health authorities in order to promote an inclusive approach to developing public policies for the rights of People with Disabilities.

¹ Modules refer to the package of subjects covered over one semester of Online training.

1.1 Program Indicators this Quarter

No	Indicator Description	Target LoP	Achievements	Cumulative	% Cum./LoP Adj
			Quarter	Year	
			(QR4 Y12)	(2011 - 2013)	
1 Output ²	Number of P&O technicians trained and Category II ISPO (International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics) certified	30	0	0	0%
2 Process	Number of P&O technicians registered in the P&O Category II ISPO (International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics) training program	30	0	35	117%
3	Number of persons who receive services provided by prosthetics and orthotics students enrolled in the training program	4,000	1,748	1,748	43.7%

1.2 Leahy Indicators this Quarter

Indicator	2009-2011	Achievements Q1Y'12	Achievements Q4Y'12	Cumm. 2012	2009-2012
Number of persons trained	1,362	155		155	1,517
Number of persons served	186,620	189	1,748	1,937	188,557
Number of institutions strengthened	128	2		2	130

² Please note that the target for technicians trained is 30 and the quarterly output is 0. The output will not be counted until the trainees receive their certification. During the training period Mercy Corps cannot report a completed output.

1.3 Mission Indicators this Quarter

Performance Indicators	LoP Goal	2011 (AWP target)	2008-2011 Cumm.	Q4 Yr12	Goal 2012	Cumm. 2012	Goal 2013	Cumm. 2013	2008-2013 Cumm.	% Cumm./LoP Adj
1. Vulnerable persons benefited	17,160	5,259	46,335	0	n/a	189			46,524	271.4%
IDPs benefited	-	-	587	0	n/a	0			587	n.a
Landmine survivors benefited	600	0	1,011	0	n/a	0			1,011	168.5%
Other persons with disabilities	16,560	5,563	45,324	0	n/a	189			45,513	274.8%
Afro-Colombians assisted	18	0	107	0	n/a	0			107	594.4%
Indigenous assisted	18	0	196	0	n/a	50			246	1366.7%
2. Socio-Economic reintegration	370	174	1,362	0	n/a	1			1,364	369.7%
Jobs created	175	45	436	0	n/a	1			437	249.7%
Jobs strengthened	195	129	927	0	n/a	0			927	475.4%
Beneficiaries graduating from vocational training*	33	27	15	0	0	5			20	60.6%
Beneficiaries with access to education	85	64	184	0	n/a	0			184	21.5%
3. Health	38,209	0	184,140	1748	2,500	1,937	1,500		186,077	487%
Beneficiaries with access to health care	534	0	653	0	n/a	189			842	158%
Beneficiaries with access to rehabilitation services (survivors + family members + other persons with disabilities)**	38,209	0	184,140	1,748	2,500	1,937	1,500		186,077	487%
4. Public Policy	720	265	1,106	0	n/a	0			1,106	153.6%
Persons benefited from institutional strengthening	720	265	1,106	0	n/a	0			1,106	153.6%
5. Other Indicators				0						
Private sector funds leveraged (US \$000) ***	-	-	\$ 108,00	\$ 0,00	n/a	\$ 0,00			\$ 108,00	n.a
Public Sector funds leveraged (US \$000)	-	-	\$ 296,90	\$ 0,00	n/a	\$ 0,00			\$ 296,90	n.a
Women beneficiaries	2,768	564	5,166	0	n/a	0			5,166	186.6%
Men beneficiaries	10,397	0	14,379	0	n/a	0			14,379	138.3%
Children beneficiaries	2,768	1,654	2,161	0	n/a	0			2,161	78.1%
People trained	1,890	1,178	1,345	0	n/a	155			1,500	79.4%

*The indicator refers to students undergoing Prosthetics and Orthotics Technologist Program with University Don Bosco and SENA

**The calculation of this indicator is the projection of direct beneficiaries (Rehabilitation Center), multiplied by the average family -4 people

***Exchange Rate: 1,810COP/1USD

1. Progress Towards Objectives

Program Objectives are outlined below with progress made between July 1 through September 30, 2012 by *Result* and *Activity*.

Objective 1: Landmine survivors, victims of armed conflict and other persons with disabilities in the departments of Antioquia, Caquetá, Cauca, Meta, Nariño and Norte de Santander have better quality and access to rehabilitation services by the end of the Program.

Result 1.3. Increased national capacity to provide quality prosthetic and orthotic (P&O) services, according to international standards.

Activity 1.3.1. Training of 30 P&O technicians from the departments of Antioquia, Caquetá, Cauca, Meta, Nariño and Norte de Santander through on-line distance learning courses.

As reported in previous Quarters, the Program and the online P&O training activity has supported 35 students, of which five have left the program voluntarily due to personal reasons and seven for poor academic performance.

Between July 2 and July 14, Mercy Corps led the academic evaluations of the 25 P&O students enrolled in the online program. Based on agreements with the National Learning Service (SENA) and Don Bosco University (UDB), the tests were given at the SENA campus and results were evaluated by two professors from the UDB.

Using the same methods as in previous evaluations, the group of 23 students was divided into two groups for taking the test to ensure proper supervision and transparency of the process. Facilities were adequate, all materials and orientation/support needed were provided by the two professors, SENA and Mercy Corps.



Students from Medellin, Pasto & Bogota ready to take their exam, SENA.



Professor giving instructions for taking the exam to students, SENA

The new academic year started on August 27 and the Mercy Corps team has continued with follow-up and support activities regarding student performance. As part of regular follow-up, the program's Health and Rehabilitation Coordinator has made periodic phone calls and organized Skype conference calls with the students. Each student has been contacted and follow-up support has been provided at least twice during the quarter in order to assess their academic needs, difficulties, and to identify solutions and additional support (materials, tutoring, follow-up from UDB professors, etc.).

It is important to highlight that, beyond the individual benefits of training for P&O students, the impact of this activity has raised the quality of prosthetic devices in the community level laboratories where the students work.

As of September 31, 1,748 people including People With Disabilities have benefited from prosthetic and orthotic services provided by the students.

Mercy Corps has placed special emphasis on developing methods for assessing the level of improvement in prosthetic and orthotic patient care. Tools have been developed to allow daily and monthly reporting on services provided to patients by students in the laboratories where they are work. The information has been collected, systematized in Excel, reviewed for data quality and is analyzed on a monthly basis.



Group of students with samples of work on P&O devices, SENA Florencia & Bucaramanga students working on a Prosthetic device, SENA

Follow – up to Resolution 1319 (Prosthetics and Orthotics Good Practices Manual)

During the quarter, Mercy Corps continued its leading role and active participation in the process of reformulating the Resolution 1319/2010 with the Ministry of Health. Two working sessions were held during the quarter. The first was a national level video conference focused on reviewing draft changes to the Resolution 1319 with over 40 participants including:

- Mercy Corps
- Ministry of Health (members from the quality, health services and public health teams)
- Secretary of Health representatives from eight departments
- Personnel from 10 P&O laboratories
- Hospital of the University of Valle and San Vicente de Paul in Medellin representatives
- SENA national level representatives

The second working session in September focused on reviewing the draft guide for fabrication of P&O devices including minimum standards and setting standard price levels. Minutes from the two working sessions have not yet been made available by the Ministry of Health. Hence key points, actions and agreements will be included in the following quarterly report.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation

This quarter the DM&E Unit and the M&E Coordinator focused on three primary activities:

1. Carried out review and final updates to information on patients assisted by the P&O students for the months of May-September.

2. Reviewed the Performance Management Plan for the Cost-Extension with the COP and USAID M&E representative from DEVTECH-Econometria, and made adjustments as required for USAID and AOR approval.
3. Provided technical support and training to P&O students for use of patient information forms and recommendations regarding consolidation, quality control and monthly reporting.

Once the Cost-Extension PMP is approved, the M&E Coordinator will upload indicator information into the USAID Monitor information system.

3. Conclusions

Conclusion 1: Regarding the academic and technical development of P&O students who are beneficiaries of the Program, it is clear that the direct support provides immediate positive results. Therefore, it is important to continue providing these one-on-one opportunities for student to improve educational outcomes for all students.

Conclusion 2: Mercy Corps has repeatedly emphasized the need for consistent and increased technical support for the students who are Program beneficiaries, preferably during the academic periods. This kind of extra support is necessary to provide clarifications on the academic material and prepare for the formal classroom evaluations. However, qualified personnel that can provide this kind of support is very scarce in Colombia. Additionally, implementation of technical support strategies and alliances would require additional time and budget.

Conclusion 3: As noted in previous reports, the process of academic training in prosthetics and orthotics is vital to improve the quality and availability of comprehensive rehabilitation services at the regional and community levels where landmine survivors and other PWDs live. At the same time, it is important to address needs for business improvement, both in relation to the acquisition and/or upgrading of machinery as well as management and marketing skills by the P&O laboratories and their staff.